CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling service acquisition in a wireless local area network (WLAN) device, the method including the steps of:

determining a parameter that corresponds to a present environment for the WLAN device;

comparing said parameter to a predetermined value to provide a comparison, said predetermined value defining, in part, an environment where service for the WLAN device is desirable;

analyzing said comparison according to a rule to provide a decision;

enabling a service acquisition mode when the decision is favorable; and

foregoing said service acquisition mode when the decision is unfavorable.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining a parameter includes determining a location of the WLAN device.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said determining said location uses one of a cellular zone ID, a global position system (GPS) signal, and a signal strength measurement.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining a parameter includes determining a time at the WLAN device.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining a parameter includes determining a state relevant to the WLAN device.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said determining said state includes one of detecting a need for service and a reference to a schedule database.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining a parameter includes determining a combination of location, time, and state for the WLAN device.

8. The method of claim 1 further including a step of providing said predetermined value for the WLAN device.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein providing said predetermined value includes programming the WLAN device with one of a location, time, and state.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein providing said predetermined value includes memorizing one of a location, time, and state when service has been acquired.

11. A wireless local area network (WLAN) device arranged and constructed to control service acquisition comprising in combination:

a transceiver for coupling to a second WLAN device;

a user input output (I/O) for interacting with a user; and

a controller, coupled to said user I/O and said transceiver, for deciding whether said transceiver will enter a service acquisition mode thereby coupling to said second WLAN device by;

determining a parameter that corresponds to a present environment for the WLAN device;

comparing said parameter to a predetermined value to provide a comparison, said predetermined value defining, in part, an environment where service for the WLAN device is desirable;

analyzing said comparison according to a rule to provide a decision;

enabling said service acquisition mode when the decision is favorable; and

foregoing said service acquisition mode when the decision is unfavorable.

12. The WLAN device of claim 11 wherein said step of determining a parameter includes determining a location of the WLAN device.

13. The WLAN device of claim 12 wherein said determining said location uses one of a cellular zone ID, a global position system (GPS) signal, and a signal strength measurement.

14. The WLAN device of claim 11 wherein said step of determining a parameter includes determining a time at the WLAN device.

15. The WLAN device of claim 11 wherein said step of determining a parameter includes determining a state relevant to the WLAN device.

16. The WLAN device of claim 15 wherein said determining said state includes one of detecting a need for service and a reference to a schedule database.

17. The WLAN device of claim 11 wherein said step of determining a parameter includes determining a combination of location, time, and state for the WLAN device.

18. The WLAN device of claim 11 further including a step of programming said predetermined value for the WLAN device.

19. The WLAN device of claim 18 wherein providing said predetermined value includes programming the WLAN device with one of a location, time, and state.

20. The WLAN device of claim 18 wherein providing said predetermined value includes memorizing one of a location, time, and state when service has been acquired.

21. The WLAN device of claim 11 arranged and constructed to operate within one of a Bluetooth, 802.11, and Home RF based wireless WLAN.